JOHNSON COUNTY WEED & PEST CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD

MINUTES

April 7, 2022

Members Present: Scott Rogers, Chairman; Tyler Benton; Vice Chairman; Dick Gould

Others Present: Rod Litzel, Supervisor; Allen Buff, Supervisor in-training; Katie Hepp, District Clerk

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Rogers.

Minutes for the March 8th meeting were approved with a motion by Tyler and a second by Dick.

Financial Statements for March were reviewed. Dick moved, seconded by Tyler to approve the financial statements for the general and leafy spurge funds. Motion carried.

Tyler moved, seconded by Dick to pay the bills, attached, and to allow the clerk to write utility, salary, salary related assessments and staff benefit checks as needed. Motion carried.

Old business:

* Accounts receivable report – Rod reported total outstanding to date $ 12,569.72.
	+ All current except $20.00 in 2020 grasshoppers.
	+ Unanticipated projects $12,390.69.
	+ Rodenticides $159.03.
* Activity report
	+ Rod reported that he has spent time with Allen
		- meeting with contractors
		- doing prairie dog surveys for the ZP Rebate Program
		- attended the SAC meeting
			* Leafy spurge grant request of $80,000 was fully funded
			* Salt cedar/Russian olive grant request of $30,000 was fully funded
			* Weed Bounty Program grant request of $2,000 was rejected
		- working on the proposed budget
	+ Allen reported that he has been working on prairie dog surveys, volunteered on the Weed Bounty Committee and is working on his Weed Free Forage Certification.
* Board training
	+ Rod provided the agenda and online information for the Board training in Cheyenne on April 22 held by the Attorney General’s Office.

New business:

* Council Education Committee:
	+ Rod reported that District had received a request from the Education Committee for matching donations on a grant they were awarded from SAC.
* Dick moved, seconded by Tyler reply to the Education committee that District Education budget at this would be better spent locally, particularly for our Weed Bounty Program since it was not funded by SAC and therefore could not commit funds at this time. Furthermore, the committee can use that as the Districts’ portion as matching funds towards their project as it fell in line with those project goals and objectives. Motion carried
* Prairie dog rebate program
	+ Tyler moved, seconded by Dick to pay the following ZP Rebate Program rebates. Motion passed
		- Zezas Ranch: applicator billed acres 378, qualifying acres 231, rebate $1,155.00
		- Bootjack Ranch: applicator billed acres 445, qualifying acres 436, rebate $2,180.00
		- Belus Brothers: applicator billed acres 1475, qualifying acres 1356.6, rebate $6,783.00
		- Trail Land Partnership: applicator billed acres 162, qualifying acres 162, rebate $810.00
		- John Hansen: applicator billed acres 59.8, qualifying acres 59.8, rebate $299.00
		- John Hepp: applicator billed acres 492.2, qualifying acres 464.7, rebate $2,323.50
		- Packard Livestock: applicator billed acres 374.6, qualifying acres 154.8, rebate $774.00
		- Dan Lawrence: applicator billed acres 502.9, qualifying acres 502.9, rebate $2,514.50
		- Dan Lawrence: 2020 rebate recheck qualifying acres 32, rebate $160.00
		- Fieldgrove Ranch: applicator billed acres 184.9, qualifying acres 184.9, rebate $924.00
		- Kuhn Ranch: applicator billed acres 288.2, qualifying acres 288.2, rebate $1,441.00
		- Quarter Circle 9 Cattle: applicator billed acres 475, qualifying acres 468.6, rebate $2,343.00
		- Castle Rock Ag: applicator billed acres 20.8, qualifying acres 20.8, rebate $104.00
		- Garcia: applicator billed acres 35, qualifying acres 35, rebate $175.00
		- Tickel: no qualifying acres
	+ Tyler moved, seconded by Dick to continue the ZP Rebate Program. Motion carried
		- Discussion was had on changes that could be made to the program; consensus was to continue with just modifications to the signup.
		- Signup sheet shall be revised including inspection deadline, clarifying how a prairie dog application qualifies for a rebate and to clarify time between qualifying rebates to two untreated years between.
* Budget
	+ Rod reported that the County had a settlement with Carbon Creek and the District will receive roughly $145,000 per fund by the end of this fiscal year.
	+ Rod and Allen lead discussion on crew plans and crew wages for the upcoming season
		- Isolina, Rachel, Anna, Trevor and Rick will be returning
		- Rod will be a “float person” and help Allen
		- Allen will focus on learning landowners and be with the backpack crew
	+ Tyler moved, seconded by Dick to give returning crew members $.50 per hour raise and give Rick, returning road crew lead an incentive raise of $3.00. Motion carried
* Drug screening
	+ Allen reported that the VOA is no longer providing employment drug screening and that he is looking into other vendors and cost.
	+ Board agreed by consensus to continue the pre-employment drug screening and to be sure that “random” screenings are done.
* Council special meeting
	+ Council approved the proposed changes to the SMP Rules & Regulations which will then go through the Dept of Ag for the next step in the process.
	+ USFWS proposed to run individual County project funds through the Council where the Council would be paid an administrative fee, to help streamline the process for Districts. Council approved.
		- Johnson, Sheridan and Campbell will be applying for funds on a Ventenata tri-county project.
	+ Discussion on Palmer amaranth, how it affects the seed industry; no action taken.
* Salt cedar contractor- Rod reported that he and Allen had met with a contractor regarding Salt cedar cutting
	+ Board discussed
		- Value in having the contractor assist in the cutting to narrow the window of the project and capitalize on crossing the ice,
		- Type of equipment that the contractor had or would provide.
		- Estimated cost of $150 per hour; option to have fuel allowance for contractor.
		- Equipment costs are to be covered in the SAC grant the District received.
		- Board agreed by consensus to consider utilizing those services but would revisit the details prior to beginning the project.
* Annual report review
	+ 2021 Cost share, Annual Report and other graphs were provided to the Board.
	+ Review and discussion will be at the next meeting.
	+ Virtual tour will be at the end of August as a “jump off” for Rod.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous ballet at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted Rod Litzel JCWP District Supervisor

See You at the Next Board Meeting

### May 5th at 5 pm

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| **Payment Vouchers for April 2022** |
| **General Account** |
| **Ck. No.** | **Paid To** | **For** |  **Amount**  |
| 16610 | Scott Rogers | Board mileage | $ 69.60 |
| 16611 | Dick Gould | Board mileage | $ 259.84 |
| 16612 | Tyler Benton | Board mileage | $ 10.44 |
| 16613 | Nathan Williams | Board mileage | $ 283.04 |
| 16614 | Randy Hepp | Board mileage | $ 118.32 |
| 16615 | Rocky Mountain Equip | Repairs on SC rental equip | $ 94.58 |
| 16616 | Wy Weed & Pest Council | Council dues | $ 2,500.00 |
| 16617 | Atlas Premier | Xerox maint agreement | $ 64.50 |
| 16618 | Quill | Misc office supplies | $ 68.98 |
| 16619 | Farm Bureau | Insurance | $ 2,607.51 |
| 16620 | Rod Litzel | ATV rental | $ 228.80 |
| 16621 | Allen Buff | ATV rental  | $ 226.60 |
| 16622 | Montana Dakota Utilities | Utilities | $ 117.42 |
| 16623 | Buffalo Bulletin | Public notice | $ 92.00 |
| 16624 | Wy Dept of Revenue | Sales tax | $ 168.76 |
| 16625 | AHT Cattle Company | 2020 ZP rebate program | $ 35.00 |
| 16626 | Sports Lure | In Reach unit | $ 399.99 |
| 16627 | Zezas Ranch | 2021 ZP rebate program | $ 1,155.00 |
| 16628 | Bootjack Ranch | 2021 ZP rebate program | $ 2,180.00 |
| 16629 | Belus Brothers | 2021 ZP rebate program | $ 6,783.00 |
| 16630 | Trail Land Partnership | 2021 ZP rebate program | $ 810.00 |
| 16631 | John Hansen | 2021 ZP rebate program | $ 299.00 |
| 16632 | John Hepp | 2021 ZP rebate program | $ 2,323.50 |
| 16633 | Packard Livestock | 2021 ZP rebate program | $ 774.00 |
| 16634 | Dan Lawrence | 2020 & 2021 ZP rebate | $ 2,674.50 |
| 16635 | Fieldgrove Ranch | 2021 ZP rebate program |  $ 924.50 |
| 16636 | Kuhn Ranch | 2021 ZP rebate program |  $ 1,441.00 |
| 16637 | Quarter Circle 9 Cattle | 2021 ZP rebate program |  $ 2,343.00 |
| 16638 | Castle Rock Ag | 2021 ZP rebate program |  $ 104.00 |
| 16639 | Roberto & Stefanie Garcia | 2021 ZP rebate program |  $ 175.00 |
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| **Payment Vouchers for Apr 2022** |
| **Leafy Spurge Account** |
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